



DFW

MAIL STOP PETITION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: T.W. Urbanek Attorney Docket No.: GOWL122548 (New)  
LAMA122548 (Old)  
Application No.: 10/804,868 Group Art Unit: 3675  
Filed: March 19, 2004  
Title: PROPPANTS AND THEIR MANUFACTURE

PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.102(c)(2)(ii) and M.P.E.P. § 708.02(VI)

Seattle, Washington 98101

August 19, 2005

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

Applicant hereby petitions to make this application special as being for an invention that materially contributes to

- ☒ a. the discovery or development of energy resources.
- ☐ b. the more efficient utilization and conservation of energy.

1. Accompanying material.

Accompanying this petition is a statement in support of this petition by:

- ☒ a. Applicant
- ☐ b. Applicant's attorney

explaining how the invention materially contributes to category (a) set forth above.

LAW OFFICES OF  
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS<sup>PLLC</sup>  
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2. Fee.

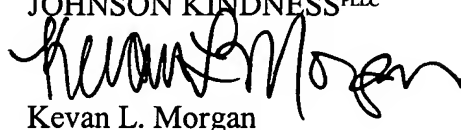
In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.102(c), no fee is required for this petition.

**Customer No. 26389**

CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS<sup>PLLC</sup>  
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Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR  
JOHNSON KINDNESS<sup>PLLC</sup>



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to **Mail Stop Petition**, Commissioner for Patents, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA22313-1450, on the below date.

Date:

August 19, 2005

Aymen Zeet

KLM:lpz

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**STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL**

August 17, 2005

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

I, Mike Fitzgerald, President of Global Synfrac Inc., assignee of the above-identified patent application, hereby state that the invention described and claimed in the above-identified application materially contributes to the discovery or development of energy resources.

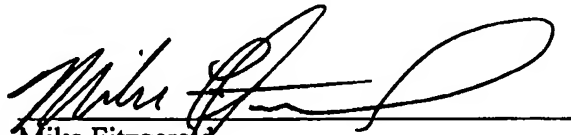
The claimed invention relates to proppants and methods of manufacturing the same. Proppants are particulates, preferably spherical, that will withstand high temperatures, pressures, and corrosive environments present in an oil or gas bearing formation. Hydraulic fracturing is a process of injecting fluids into an oil or gas bearing formation at sufficiently high rates and pressures such that the formation fails in tension and fractures to accept the fluid. In order to hold the fracture open once the fracturing pressure is released, a propping agent (proppant) is mixed with the fluid and injected into the formation. Hydraulic fracturing increases the flow of oil or gas from a reservoir to the well bore in at least three ways: (1) the overall reservoir area connected to the well bore is increased, (2) the proppant in the fracture has significantly higher permeability than the formation itself, and (3) the highly conductive (propped) channels create a large pressure gradient in the reservoir past the tip of the fracture.

Special status for examination of Application No. 10/804,868 is appropriate because:

1. There is a critical shortage of proppant available to the energy industry.
2. There is an enhanced recovery of oil and gas directly resulting from the use of better quality proppants in oil and gas drilling operations.
3. The energy industry is currently seeking lighter and more conductive proppants for use in existing and future oil and gas drilling operations.
4. Having access to an improved proppant supply will allow the energy industry to extract more oil and gas from existing and future wells without having to incur the cost of extra drilling.

I hereby further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Fitzgerald", is written over a horizontal line.

Mike Fitzgerald  
President  
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